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Advisory Announcement

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Registration sheep hunt in Unit 19C to Close Thursday

(McGrath, Alaska) – The State of Alaska winter registration hunt (RS380) for sheep in Unit 19C will not open this year due to low sheep numbers in the area. The RS380 hunt allows for the harvest of ewes and young rams. Based on available data this population cannot sustain additional harvest at this time.

During Unit 19C surveys in 2019 we found far fewer sheep than in 2017. This decline was likely due to weather related events such as deep snow and icing, which negatively affected survival. Weather this summer was not conducive to conducting another survey to follow up on the low numbers found in 2019. However, the department received widespread reports from guides and hunters in the field this fall indicating drastically lower sheep numbers than they have seen in previous years. These reports of low sheep numbers are also corroborated by surveys in other portions of the Alaska Range conducted by the department this summer. Finally, preliminary sheep harvest for fall 2020 also appears to be much lower than last year, further indication that a population decline has occurred. We will attempt another survey next year.

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